

September 14, 2021

Exhibit 11

# 2020

MISC ANNUAL REPORT





## MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

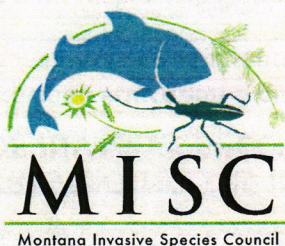
### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

In FY20 (June 1, 2019-June 30, 2020), the Montana Invasive Species Council continued its work to implement the tasks and objectives outlined by stakeholders in the Montana Invasive Species Framework. Much of our work during this timeframe included implementation of the 2018 Law Review findings, which have culminated in potential legislation during the 2021 legislative session to address gaps related to aquatic invasive species and prevention efforts for emerging species, such as feral swine and emerald ash borer. A major focus of MISC's work in FY20 included travel to all corners of the state and points in between to provide education and outreach about invasive species and coordinate local and regional invasive species issues. MISC also expanded its regional coordination by serving on the Western Invasive Species Council. Through that effort MISC created and led a transboundary feral swine management workgroup, which aided in expanding networks with neighboring western provinces and states to address the movement of swine across the border. Early FY21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) has been a period of transition as MISC develops plans and strategies for delivering invasive species education and outreach and accomplishing its work in a virtual world. MISC planned to co-host the 2020 North American Invasive Species Management Association annual conference. That event has gone virtual, and we look forward to co-hosting the event in fall 2021.

**Bryce Christiaens, MISC Chair**



**Cover photo:** Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development **Location:** The white cliffs; National Wild and Scenic Missouri River



*The Montana Invasive Species Council is a statewide partnership working to protect Montana's economy, natural resources, and public health through a coordinated approach to combat invasive species.*

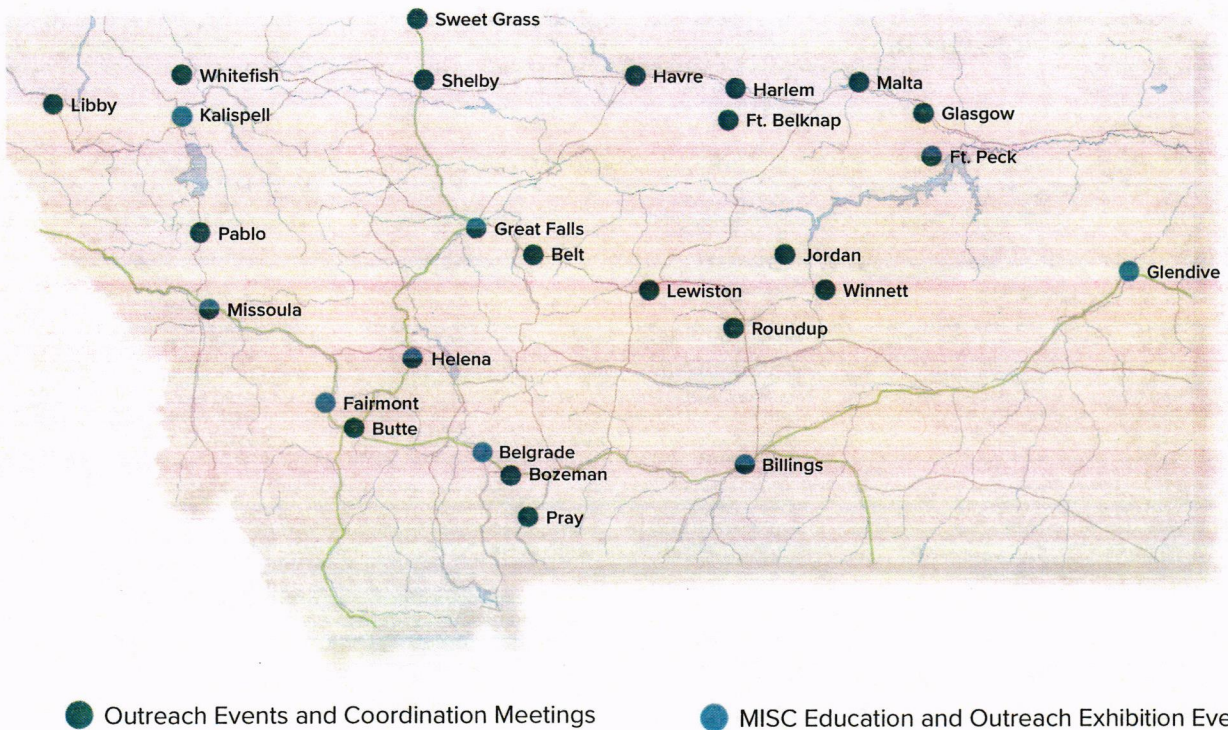
*MISC's work is guided by the objectives outlined in the Montana Invasive Species Framework, which is organized by the five tenants of invasive species management—coordination, prevention, detection, rapid response, and control. Projects are selected based on the highest priorities identified by partners, stakeholders, and the Council. MISC's FY20 accomplishments follow.*



## MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

### COORDINATING MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES EFFORTS

In FY20, MISC's members and staff traveled across the state to coordinate invasive species issues, provide education and outreach at events such as the Montana Stockgrowers Association and Montana Weed Control Association, and participate in meetings to share and learn about local invasive species issues.



#### MISC SPEAKING EVENTS

- San Diego, CA – Western Plant Association Annual Meeting
- Saratoga Springs, NY – North American Invasive Species Management Association Annual Conference
- Washington, D.C. – Senate Subcommittee on Water and Power
- Coeur d'Alene, ID – Invasive Species Innovation Conference

#### REGIONAL COORDINATION

- MISC staff was appointed to serve on the Western Invasive Species Council and participates in monthly calls with Invasive Species
- Coordinators from western states to coordinate regional invasive species issues and share information.



## MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

---

### PREVENTING THE INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Provided **education & outreach** statewide and regionally through the Invasive Species Bulletin, presentations at conferences, and outreach events across the state and regionally.

In partnership with Department of Livestock and the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services, launched the Squeal on Pigs campaign and hosted a Feral Swine Summit.

In its role serving on the Western Invasive Species Council, established and led a transboundary feral swine workgroup to discuss gaps and develop strategies to enhance transboundary prevention and management of feral swine.

Participated in podcasts produced by the **National Invasive Species Council** and **Western Governors' Association** about invasive species threats in Montana and MISC's role in coordinating statewide prevention efforts.

### IMPROVING EARLY DETECTION EFFORTS

MISC continued to partner with the Montana Natural Heritage Program to enhance **Invasive Species Data** contained in the state's Natural Resource Information Database.

Launched an all-taxa website at **[invasivespecies.mt.gov](https://invasivespecies.mt.gov)** to direct the public and natural resources managers to information about invasive species early detection, as well as provide resources for all areas of invasive species management along the invasion curve from prevention to control.

In partnership with multiple state and federal agencies and organizations, produced a fact sheet about the **emerald ash borer**.

### PREPARING FOR INVASIONS

Hosted its second **Tree Pest Incident Command System Tabletop Exercise** with partners and stakeholders to practice and prepare for a tree pest invasion, such as emerald ash borer.

**All-taxa Rapid Response Guidelines** were developed to have an on-the-ready template to be customized for any invasive species emergency.

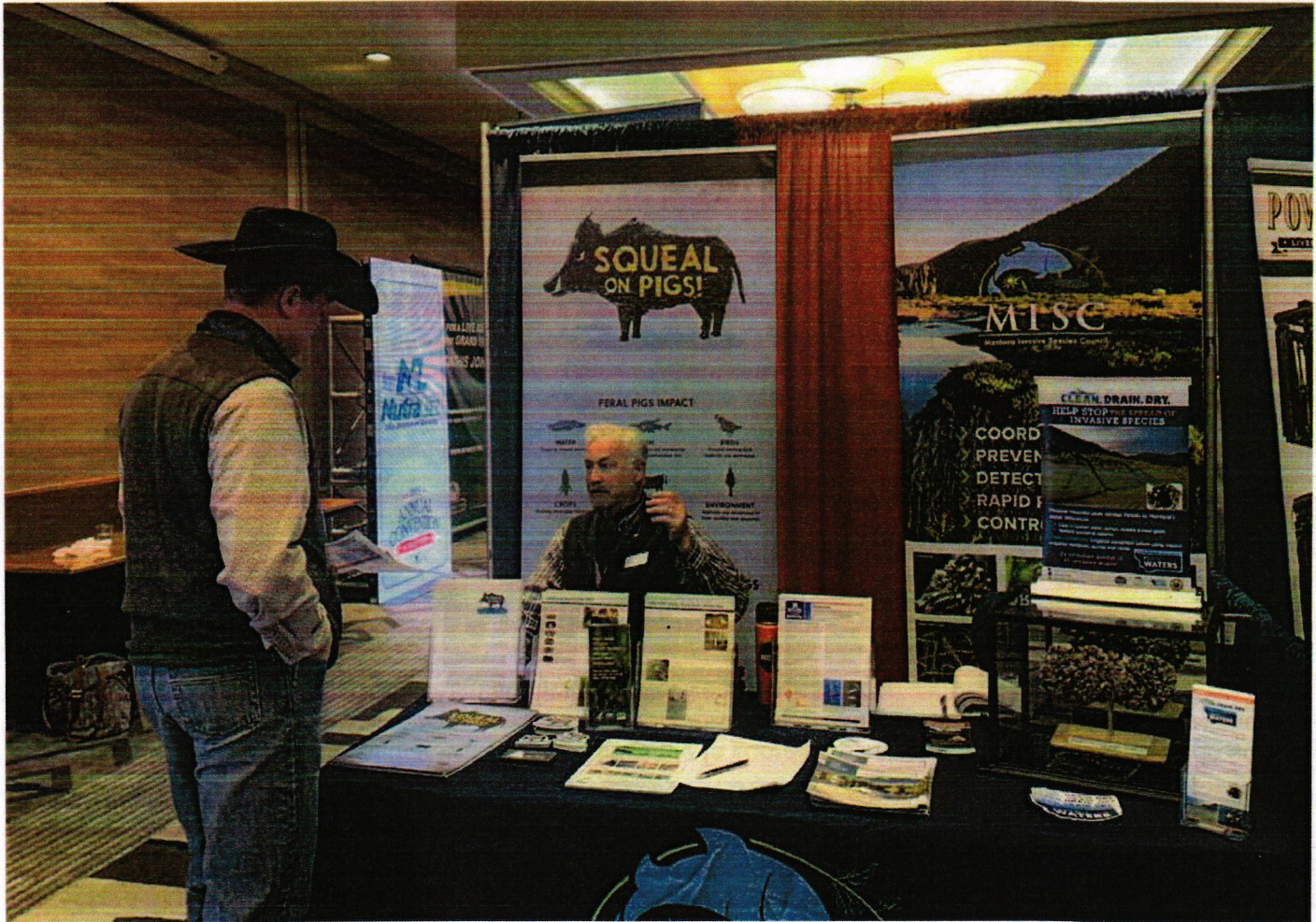


## MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

### CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES

Accomplished a Science Advisory Panel to guide the potential for approval of *Mogulones crucifer* (houndstongue root weevil) for classical biological control of houndstongue in the U.S. Houndstongue is a state noxious weed that is impacting land managers of private and public land across Montana.

Launched a Science Advisory Panel on *Xerolenta obvia* (Eastern heath snail) to address infestations of the invasive snail in and around Belt.





## MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

---

### FERAL SWINE

Feral swine populations are expanding in the western provinces of Canada and are on the rise in the United States. Montana has identified this invasive species of immediate concern and has taken action to prevent their introduction. In coordination with the Department of Livestock and the USDA APHIS-Wildlife Services, MISC launched the Squeal on Pigs education and outreach campaign, hosted a Feral Swine Summit, and coordinated a series of community workshops to prevent and stop feral swine along interstate and international borders.

The Squeal on Pigs campaign is intended to raise awareness about feral swine and the threat they pose to Montana's economy, waterways, and natural resources. The effort is intended to stop the expansion of feral swine populations, inform private landowners of the need to report feral swine, provide information on Montana's laws and regulations, highlight the reasons recreational hunting of feral swine increases rather than reduces their population, and connect landowners with agencies that can provide technical assistance in feral swine management.

MISC hosted a Feral Swine Coordination Summit in November 2019 to launch Montana's Squeal on Pigs education and outreach campaign and engage neighboring states/provinces and partners to improve coordination of feral swine management to prevent introduction in Montana.





## MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

---

### SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL

The 2017 legislature tasked MISC with creating and coordinating science advisory panels to evaluate and provide recommendations on key invasive species issues and topics. Montana land managers identified the need to scope the potential for approval of *Mogulones crucifer* for classical biological control of houndstongue in the United States and MISC supported this topic as deserving of a Science Advisory Panel in 2019.

A seven-person panel of leading researchers and expert senior representatives from regulatory and management agencies was assembled to scope the potential for approval of *Mogulones crucifer* for classical biological control of houndstongue in the U.S. Efforts resulted in a set of recommendations in the process of moving toward a successful petition for the release of *M. crucifer* on houndstongue in the U.S.

MISC launched its third science panel in 2020 to examine the existing body of knowledge about *Xerolenta obvia* (Eastern heath snail) to identify gaps related to its basic biology, monitoring techniques, control options, and best practices for managing pathways; and to develop a containment and management strategy for populations in Belt, Montana, and the outlying areas. An international panel has been assembled to accomplish this work, and a virtual series of sessions will be held in early December 2020 for panelists to discuss the issue and develop recommendations on how to address *X. obvia* in Montana.





## MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

### INVASIVESPECIES.MT.GOV

MISC and the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC<sup>3</sup>) launched [invasivespecies.mt.gov](https://invasivespecies.mt.gov) in April 2020. MISC and UC<sup>3</sup> worked with invasive species organizations, managers and partners across the state to develop a one-stop-shop for Montana invasive species resources and information. Features of the website include information about state programs and the species they manage; educational resources for prevention; how to report invasive species, and links to field guides for all invasive species including aquatic, noxious weeds, pests and disease, and emerging threats. The goal of the website was not to recreate existing information but to serve as a 'landing page,' organizing the information in one place to direct resource managers, researchers, citizen scientists and others to reliable, accurate, and up-to-date information.





# PROTECT OUR LAND & WATERS



Always wash and dry your boots, bikes, and off-road vehicles between uses.  
PLAYCLEANGO.ORG

Help prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Clean your gear before and after recreating. Remove weed seeds or burs stuck to your shoes, clothing, or pets and dispose in trash. Wash your vehicle, focusing on removing mud from the wheel wells and undercarriage.  
WEEDAWARENESS.ORG



Buy it where you burn it or gather it on-site. Firewood can harbor pests and disease, and Montana depends on healthy forests.  
DONTMOVEFIREWOOD.ORG

Dispose of unwanted pets, aquarium plants and water, and live bait the proper way, and not into waterways.  
DONTLETITLOOSE.COM/STATE/MONTANA



Aquatic invasive species are often inadvertently spread by boats. Clean, drain and dry every time you use your boat.  
CLEANDRAINDRYMT.COM



Feral swine can impact our water, fish, birds, crops, livestock and environment. If you think you see a feral swine call 406-444-2976.  
SQUEALONPIGSMT.COM



You can take simple actions to help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species and noxious weeds.

INVASIVESPECIES.MT.GOV

Invasive species awareness and prevention ad was included in targeted publications in FY20.



## MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

---

### AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES GRANT PROGRAM

Beginning in FY20, MISC, in coordination with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, began overseeing the state's Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program. The first cycle of the new program occurred in Fall 2019, and MISC provided funding recommendations for nearly \$251,000 to support local efforts to address AIS issues. For more information about the program, visit:

[invasivespecies.mt.gov/montana-invasive-species/Aquatic-Invasive-Species-Grant-Program](https://invasivespecies.mt.gov/montana-invasive-species/Aquatic-Invasive-Species-Grant-Program)



# Save the date!

## 28th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Transboundary Cooperation

Sept. 27-30, 2021 | Missoula, Montana  
North American Invasive Species Management  
Association | co-hosted with the Montana  
Invasive Species Council



NAISMA  
NORTH AMERICAN INVASIVE SPECIES  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



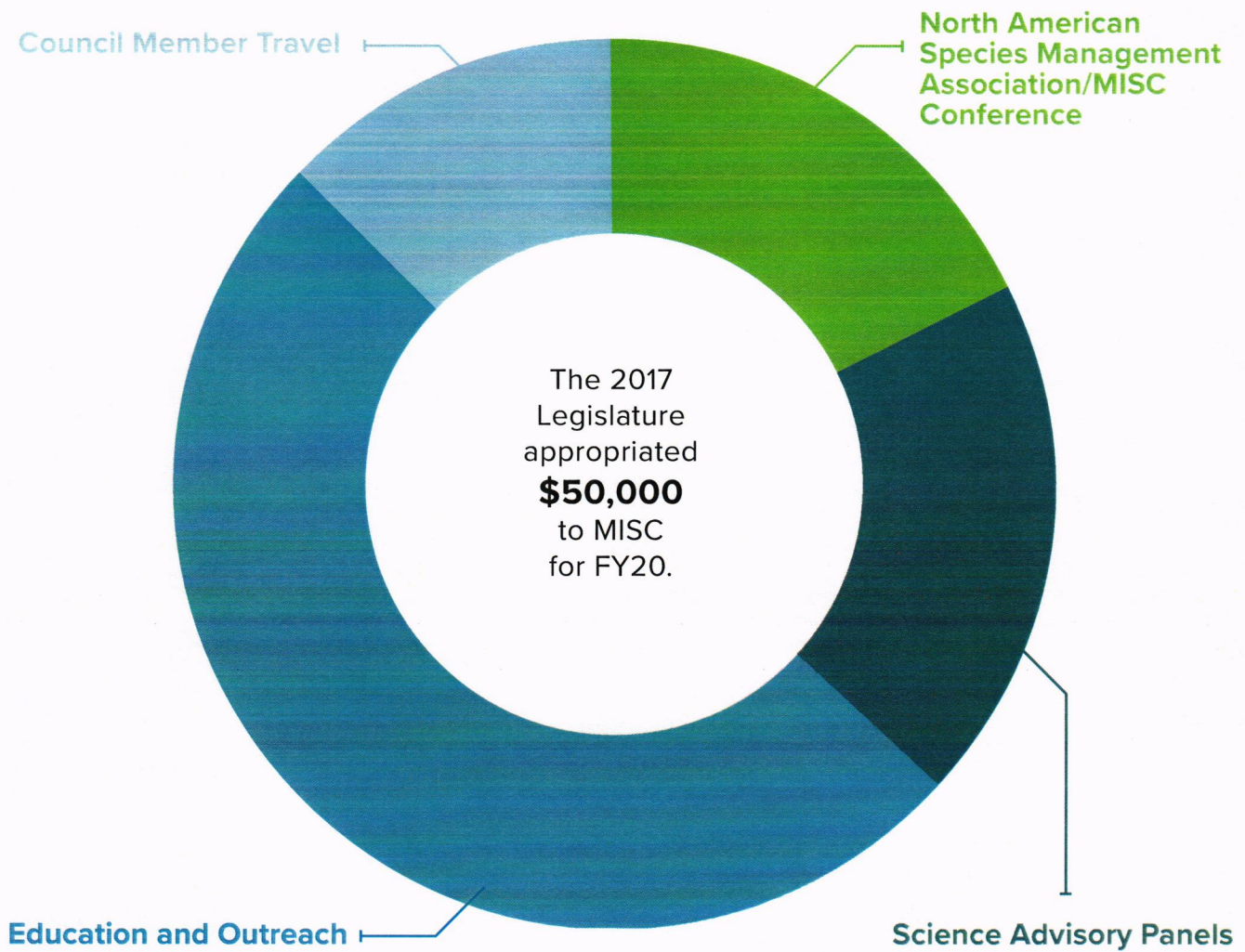
MISC  
Montana Invasive Species Council

[NAISMA.org/conferences](https://NAISMA.org/conferences)



## FY20 EXPENDITURES

---





## MISC MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

### MISC COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Bryce Christiaens, Chair**

*Missoula County Weed District Manager*

**Steve Wanderaas, Vice Chair**

*McCone County Conservation District*

**Tom Woolf, Vice Chair**

*AIS Bureau Chief, Fish, Wildlife & Parks*

**Bruce Anderson**

*Private Landowner, Blaine County*

**David Brooks**

*Executive Director, Montana Trout Unlimited*

**Martin Charlo**

*Tribal Council, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*

**Amy Gannon**

*Pest Management Specialist,  
Department of Natural Resources & Conservation*

**Leigh Greenwood**

*Forest Health Program Director,  
The Nature Conservancy*

**Dennis Longknife**

*Climate Change Coordinator, Fort Belknap  
Indian Community*

**Jane Mangold**

*Noxious Weed Specialist, MSU-Extension*

**Jasmine Reimer**

*MT State Weed Coordinator, Department of Agriculture*

**Mike Miller**

*Noxious Weed Coordinator, Department of Transportation*

**Dona Rutherford**

*Blackfeet Nation Environmental Office*

**Laurie Shafter**

*Water Quality Specialist, Fort Peck Assiniboine  
& Sioux Tribes*

**Jan Stoddard**

*Industry Services & Outreach Bureau Chief,  
Department of Commerce*

**Steve Tyrrel**

*Vice President/CEO, Integrated Agriculture Services*

**Alec Underwood**

*Western Montana Field Rep, Montana Wildlife Federation*

**Andy Welch**

*Hydropower Compliance Specialist, Northwestern Energy*

**Daryl Wright II**

*Tribal Council, Chippewa Cree Tribe*

**Gail Whiteman**

*Conservation Specialist, Crow Tribe of Indians*

### FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS

**Gary Adams**

*U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service*

**Cara Riwai-Couch**

*U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*

**Steve Bekedam**

*Yellowstone National Park*

**Patricia Gilbert**

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

**Lynn Hurst**

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection*

**Monica Pokorny**

*U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*

**Wendy Velman**

*U.S. Bureau of Land Management*

**Jessica Zarate**

*U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

**Michelle Cox**

*U.S. Forest Service*

### COUNCIL COORDINATOR

**Stephanie Criswell**

*Department of Natural Resources and Conservation*

Visit [misc.mt.gov](https://misc.mt.gov) for more information and to access MISC meeting archives, events, reports, publications, and more.